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THE

# Trades Union Congress

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE,

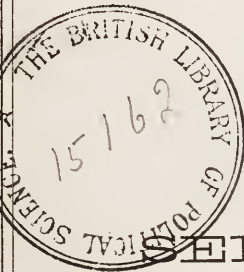
19, BUCKINGHAM STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

## RESOLUTIONS

PASSED AT THE

# TRADES UNION CONGRESS,

## CARDIFF,



## SEPTEMBER, 1895.

*(As considered by the Parliamentary Committee at  
their Meeting, 8th, 9th, and 10th October.)*



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### 1.—ELECTION OF PRESIDENT.

Mr. F. A. Fox (boilermakers) proposed the election of Councillor John Jenkins, the delegate of the Shipwrights' Society and president of the Cardiff Trades Council, as president of the Congress.

Mr. ROBLIN, the assistant secretary of the Cardiff Trades Council, seconded the motion, which was carried with unanimity.

### 2.—APPOINTMENTS.

The Congress proceeded to appoint a Standing Orders Committee, two auditors, and tellers. The Standing Orders Committee were elected as under:—Messrs. Harvey (Derbyshire), Mullin (Manchester), Shaftoe (Bradford), Wilkie (Newcastle), and W. J. Davis (Birmingham). Messrs. Parrott (Yorkshire) and Wilkinson (Accrington) were elected auditors. Messrs. Greenall (Lancashire), Robinson (Burnley), Gregory (London), Robertson (Glasgow), Charlton (Durham), and Taylor (Midland Counties Trades Federation) were elected tellers.

### 3.—THE CHANNEL TRIP.

Mr. JAMES MAWDSLEY moved:—

“That the members of this Congress hereby tender their hearty thanks to the Marquis of Bute, the captain, crew, and stewards of the ‘Cambria,’ and to the local Trades Reception Committee for the excellent arrangements made, and the manner in which they were carried out on the trip across the Channel yesterday afternoon.”

Mr. JACK seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

#### 4.—EIGHT HOURS DAY.

Mr. W. THORNE moved :—

“That the time has arrived when the hours of labour should be limited to eight per day in all trades and occupations in the United Kingdom, and that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to draft a Bill on the lines of this resolution, with a view of getting it passed through Parliament and made a law of the country.”

Mr. W. PARNELL seconded, and the motion was declared carried.

#### 5.—EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY.

Mr. E. HARFORD (Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants) moved the following resolution :—

“That, in order to place the law relating to Employers' Liability on a more equitable basis, and to make it more conducive to safety, this Congress calls upon the Government to so amend the existing Act, that, amongst other things, the responsibility may rest upon the employer for the acts of all his employés, or of those of any sub-contractor; and irrespective of the acquiescence of the person killed or injured, that its provisions may apply to the workers in all industries on land or sea, in private, or State, or municipal employment; and that contracting-out of the Act be illegal—with other alterations, such as the extension of the period of notice, and the removal of the maximum limit of compensation; the Parliamentary Committee to be instructed to draft a measure on these lines, and secure its introduction into the House of Commons as early as possible.”

Mr. ANDREW CLARK (secretary of the General Railway Workers' Union) seconded, and the resolution was carried without dissent.

#### 6.—HOUSE OF LORDS.

Mr. J. JACK, J.P., moved :—

“That this Congress is of opinion that the representative character of the House of Commons is impaired, and its decisions rendered nugatory by the power of the House of Lords, and with a view of maintaining inviolate the supremacy of Parliament, this Congress calls for the speedy abolition of the Second Chamber.”

Mr. W. E. HARVEY seconded. The resolution was carried.

#### 7.—LAW OF CONSPIRACY.

Mr. J. H. WILSON, M.P., moved the following resolution :—

“That this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take immediate steps to bring pressure upon the Government to include in their programme for next session a Bill to amend the law relating to conspiracy and breaches of the peace.”

Mr. PETE CURRAN seconded, and the motion was carried *nem. con.*

### 8.—POOR-LAW AMENDMENT.

Mr. D. HOLMES, J.P., moved :—

“That this Congress considers that the present administration of the Poor-law is bad in principle and ineffective in its results, and considers that a system should be adopted which would not involve the recipient of relief in civil disabilities, and should also provide for aged workers without their being compelled to enter the workhouse.”

Mr. MARLOR (Oldham) seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

### 9.—FACTORY LEGISLATION.

Mr. J. MAWDSLEY moved :—

“That this Congress hereby tenders its thanks to Mr. Asquith for the excellent Bill which he introduced during the last session of Parliament, and considers that the Act as passed should be further amended in the following direction :—(1) The inclusion of more trades under the head of ‘dangerous and unhealthy trades;’ (2) the extension of the 38th clause (the giving of particulars of work) to all trades and occupations paid by piece; (3) the extension of its scope so as to make it include all vessels and craft in port, river, dock, or canal. The Congress also considers that the administration of the Act might be improved by the appointment of men as inspectors who have a practical knowledge of the work to be inspected.”

Mr. BEN TILLET seconded, and the motion was carried.

An amendment from the Independent Tailors calling on the Parliamentary Committee to assist in the effort to abolish the middleman was also included.

### 10.—THE UNEMPLOYED.

Mr. BEN TILLET moved :—

“That this Congress, in the interest of the hundreds of thousands of workmen who are at present unemployed owing to no fault of their own, urge upon the Government to hold an autumn session for the special purpose of at once finding useful employment, such as the reclamation of foreshores, slob lands, re-afforestation of waste lands, the construction of breakwaters and harbours of refuge, farm colonisation, the efficient sanitation of all towns and cities, the utilisation of Crown lands, and the construction of light railways; and, further, call upon the Government to suspend the pauper clause disfranchising recipients of poor-law relief.”

He also, he said, would include by arrangement an amendment, or portion of an amendment, from the Goldbeaters' Society, as follows :—

“That it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to urge upon the Government the necessity of passing into law a Bill for London and other large industrial centres (as a temporary means of dealing



with exceptional distress, caused through depression of trade and other causes) embodying the principles recommended in the report of the Royal Commission, by placing the responsibility of finding work for the *bonâ fide* out of work on the Local Government Board."

Mr. W. C. STEADMAN (Barge Builders, London) seconded, and the motion was carried.

#### 11.—PAYMENT OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

Mr. E. COWEY proposed:—

"That this Congress tenders its thanks to those members of Parliament who have supported the principle of paying M.P.'s for their services, and hereby instructs the Parliamentary Committee of the Congress to do their utmost to get the question again introduced into Parliament with a view to its being legalised, coupled with the payment of returning officers' charges from the local rates."

Mr. BEN COOPER (L.C.C.) seconded, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

#### 12.—ALIEN IMMIGRATION.

Mr. W. INSKIP moved:—

"In view of the injury done to a large number of trades and trade unions by the wholesale importation of foreign destitute paupers, this Congress calls upon the Government to take the necessary steps, either by Bill, official inspection, or Order in Council, to prohibit the landing of all pauper aliens who have no visible means of subsistence."

Mr. JOSEPH PYE (London) seconded, and the resolution was adopted.

#### 13.—STANDING ORDERS.

Mr. P. WEIGHILL (London) moved:—

"That after the word 'Congress' at the end of Standing Order 22, the following words be added: 'And no alteration can take effect, except by the express desire of the delegates assembled in Congress. The Parliamentary Committee to have no power in framing new orders.'"

Mr. J. GREGORY (London) seconded, and the resolution was carried.

#### 14.—PAYMENT OF COUNTY COUNCILLORS.

Mr. BEN TURNER (Batley) moved:—

"That this Congress is of opinion that the Local Government Act of 1888 should be so amended as to include the payment of travelling expenses and 10s. a day to members of County Councils."

The resolution was unanimously agreed to.

## 15.—REPRESENTATION ON GOVERNING BODIES.

Mr. R. FAIRBAIRN (London) moved:—

“That this Congress endorses the principle that wherever the interests of working men are involved they should have the right of representation (by election) upon public administrative bodies having jurisdiction or control of their actions.”

He also accepted the following amendments:—

“1.—(a) That this Congress endorses the principles of direct independent labour representation upon all local and Government administrative bodies, but would leave the power of selection in the hands of the constituencies, and where it is found advisable in the interests of the working classes. This Congress is prepared to support candidates who are adopted *by*, and receiving support *from*, the political parties—(political parties—either Liberal, Conservative, Nationalist, or Unionist).”

“(b) That in furtherance of this object, this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to use its influence in urging upon the Government the necessity of further appointment of working men upon the borough and county magisterial benches.”

“2.—That this Congress learns with regret and surprise that orders were issued by certain railway companies denying freedom of action to railwaymen to sit upon Parish Councils and other bodies, and is of opinion that legislation is necessary to effectually stop such intimidatory action in future.”

Mr. CLARK (Railway Union, London) seconded, and the resolution and amendments were unanimously agreed to.

## 16.—OVERTIME.

Mr. GOSLING moved:—

“That inasmuch as the boys who are apprenticed to the watermen and lightermen of the river Thames, who number about 2,000, are worked upon the river on an average of six days and four nights a week, to the detriment, both physically and morally, of the boys, and the permanent and serious injury of the trades, it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress to petition her Majesty's Government to institute an immediate inquiry into the condition permitting such practices, with a view to putting a stop to, or greatly minimising, such a serious and disgraceful condition of affairs.”

Mr. FAIRBAIRN seconded.

Mr. E. GATLEY (Upper Mersey Watermen, Runcorn) moved the following amendment, which was adopted:—

“After the word ‘practices,’ 7th line, insert ‘and also into the hours and conditions of labour of watermen and lightermen on the Manchester Ship Canal and the Bridgewater Canal undertaking.’”

Mr. ALLEN GEE (Huddersfield) moved:—

“That this Congress is of opinion that overtime is inimical to the best interests of every trade, and therefore instructs the Parliamentary

Committee to use every effort to put a stop to the same, either by bringing forward a Bill themselves, or supporting one that may be brought in by anyone else."

Mr. BROOK seconded, and the resolution was carried.

### 17.—GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND FAIR WAGES.

Mr. ROSS (Manchester) moved :—

"That this Congress, in order to make operative the 'fair wage' and 'fair hours' resolution adopted by the House of Commons, 13th February, 1891, and as a partial remedy for the continued depression in the paper and other trades, and want of employment prevailing, hereby calls upon the Government to insert a clause in all Government contracts providing that the whole of the paper and other goods supplied (if obtainable in the United Kingdom) shall be of British or Irish manufacture, and instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take immediate steps for the furtherance of this object."

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. ALLEN GEE moved :—

"That the Parliamentary Committee press upon the Government the desirability of publishing a list of the Government contractors, with particulars of contracts, in the *Labour Gazette* each month."

Mr. KELK (London) seconded, and the proposition was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. PARRISH (London) moved :—

"That this Congress again strongly urges all sectional trades employed in the erection of buildings to use their utmost endeavours to eradicate sub-contracting and scamping in the building trade. That in future the only contract recognised should be either a whole or joint contract of sectional trades. All the sectional contractors' names should appear on the original contract agreement, and any contract let by the original contractor should be termed a sub-contract, and such sub-contractor should be recognised by the operatives as the legal employer."

Mr. E. C. GIBBS seconded, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. MOSSES (Manchester) moved :—

"That this Congress condemns the Government for persistently refusing to carry out the fair wages resolution passed by the House of Commons on 13th February, 1891, and specially condemns the Admiralty for retaining on their list of contractors and extensively employing certain notorious blackleg firms in the London district, whose true characters are perfectly well known to the Admiralty; and that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to take whatever steps they may deem necessary to have these firms struck off the list of Admiralty contractors or compelled to pay the rate of wages current in the London district."

Mr. SHEA (London) seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.



Mr. H. HUDSON (London) moved :—

“That the Parliamentary Committee of this Trades Union Congress be instructed to urge upon the Government to only give their printing contracts to firms that pay the trade union rate of wages in every department and branch establishment.”

This was adopted.

### 18.—THE REJECTION OF MR. SAM WOODS.

Mr. HODGE (Manchester) proposed :—

“That this Congress records the loss to the labour movement by the rejection of Mr. Sam Woods as a member of the House of Commons, and assures him that he still retains the confidence of the delegates, and hopes an early opportunity will be found for the return of their secretary to Parliament.”

Mr. MOSSES seconded, and it was unanimously agreed to.

### 19.—SHOP HOURS.

Mr. T. S. JONES (Cardiff) proposed :—

“That this Congress of organised workers repudiates the assumption of those who are opposed to legislative limitation of shop hours on the ground that the earlier closing of shops would be inconvenient to the working classes, as it is of opinion that drastic legislation is needed to safeguard the health of the men and women and young people who work in shops and offices, and hereby authorises the Parliamentary Committee to assist the National Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks in promoting any Early Closing Bill through the House of Commons to effect that object ; and, further, pending practical legislation on the question, the Congress calls upon the trade-unionists not to shop after the hours fixed by the National Union.”

Mr. A. PARR (Cardiff) seconded, and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

### 20.—MERCHANDISE MARKS.

Mr. J. PYE (Goldbeaters, London) proposed :—

“That the Merchandise Marks Bill agreed to by the Parliamentary Committee at an interview held with them on December 7th, 1893, by representatives of the trades affected, in keeping with the resolution adopted by the Belfast Congress, September, 1892, and such other amendments that have not been previously considered by the Parliamentary Committee and the trades interested, be again introduced at the opening of Parliament next session, and that the Parliamentary Committee—on behalf of upwards of a million skilled artisans directly interested in it—be urged to press the importance of the subject on the attention of the Government.”

Mr. UTTLEY (Sheffield) seconded the resolution, which was agreed to without further discussion.

### 21.—THE TRADE UNION STAMP.

Mr. ROSS (Manchester) moved :—

“That this Congress, in fulfilment of resolutions adopted at previous Congresses condemning the purchase of sweated goods, strongly recommends all trade-unionists and the public generally to only purchase newspapers, magazines, &c., which have the words, “Printed by trade union labour on paper made in the United Kingdom,” printed in plain letters, besides printer’s address, on foot of last page.”

Mr. G. D. KELLEY (Manchester) seconded, and the resolution was passed unanimously.

### 22.—COMPULSORY WEIGHING.

Mr. HODGE (Manchester) moved :—

“In consequence of the fact that, although the wages of a majority of the workmen employed in the iron and steel industries are rated and paid for per ton of metal produced, yet many firms, instead of weighing, guess the weight, and as in almost every instance where weighing is done refuse facilities or the right of the workmen checking or ascertaining as to whether all their work has been weighed, and as in many cases the face weight on vessels and moulds for casting purposes are inaccurate, the Parliamentary Committee are hereby instructed to prepare and present to the ensuing session of Parliament a Bill having for its object—(1) The compulsory weighing of all material produced by workmen whose wages are paid for per ton of material produced by them; (2) the posting daily of the particulars of the material produced by each workman posted in a place easily accessible to those interested; (3) that facilities be given to a workman elected by his fellow workmen, or an agent of the workmen, to check the weights of the work done by them; (4) that it be made an offence to use vessels or moulds which bear a false or incorrectly stamped capacity.”

Mr. CRONIN (Glasgow) seconded, and the resolution was unanimously agreed to.

### 23.—THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

Mr. W. THORNE (London) moved :—

“That this Congress, having learned through the public press that the German Emperor is threatening repressive measures against the workmen and the German working-class paper, two numbers of the *Vorwärts*, having been confiscated, thereby records its protest against this attempt to destroy the liberty of the public press and its heartfelt sympathy with the German workers in their struggle for freedom.”

Mr. BEN TURNER (Batley) seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

### 24.—TAFF ENGINEERS’ DISPUTE.

Mr. J. STEWART (Barry Dock) moved :—

“That this Congress hereby strongly disapproves of the action of the manager of the Taff Vale Railway in refusing to see the *bonâ-fide*

representatives of the Amalgamated Engineers with the view of settling the dispute between that association and the company."

Mr. GEO. FERGUSON (Glasgow) seconded, and the resolution was unanimously carried.

## 25.—AVOIDANCE OF DISPUTES.

Mr. WHITBURN (Newcastle) moved:—

"That this Congress views with regret the actions taken by many trade unions in taking as members men engaged in other trades who should be connected with their own class of organisation; and we further call upon such unions, in the interest of trade-unionism, to provide some means of avoiding disputes by a recognition by cards or by granting clearance cards to members who change their occupation."

Mr. CLYNES (Oldham) seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. CLYNES moved:—

"That the Congress should declare that societies refusing to enter into building agreements to jointly work together for success in cases of dispute with employers were acting in opposition to the principles of trade-unionism, and calling upon all societies to make such arrangements as would prevent one body of men being defeated by the action of the other; and that any trade organisation found blacklegging and aiding or abetting non-union as against organised labour should be debarred from sending delegates to the Congress unless a sufficient excuse was given."

Mr. KENNEDY seconded, and this was also adopted.

## 26.—ROYALTIES, RENTS, TAXATION, AND NATIONALISATION OF LAND.

Mr. WALLS (Workington) moved:—

"That, in the opinion of this Congress, the land, minerals, and railways should be the property of the nation; and that, pending the education of the workers on the question of nationalisation and the necessity of its constitutional enforcement, a commission, such as those appointed to fix fair rents in Ireland and the Scotch Highlands, be appointed to fix royalty rents, wayleaves, and mineral rates on railways; and that it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to prepare a short Bill with the object of obtaining such a commission."

Mr. MASTERSON seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

## 27.—FOREIGN SHIPS AND COMPENSATION.

Mr. ANDERSON (London Stevedores) moved:—

"That this Congress is of opinion that the existing grievances of British workmen being unable to recover compensation from foreign ship-owners for injuries received (while working on such vessels) should be removed, and instructs the Parliamentary Committee to introduce or support a Bill removing the disability, and enabling a workman to proceed in the same manner for injury to life or limb as is already adopted in the case of injury to property."

Mr. GOSLING seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. A. HARRIS (Woolwich) moved :—

“That this Congress calls upon the Government to fix a special scale of compensation for all persons injured or killed through explosions whilst engaged in dangerous buildings, such compensation not to be below the ordinary weekly wage.”

Mr. CUMMINGS (Boilermakers) seconded the motion, and it was also agreed to.

## 28.—BOILER EXPLOSIONS.

Mr. THURSTON (London) moved :—

“That in the interests and for the safety of the public it should be made compulsory that those having charge of steam boilers and steam engines should possess a certificate showing practical fitness, and this Congress hereby instructs the Parliamentary Committee to support legislation to that end.”

Mr. R. CARR (Darlington) seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously.

It was moved, seconded, and carried :—

“That this Congress regrets to learn that many small crafts plying on our rivers are manned by incompetent men, and considers that those who have charge of small vessels, whether carrying cargo or passengers, such as flats, barges, lighters, small steamers, or pleasure boats, trading on the various rivers and harbours of the United Kingdom, shall pass an examination as to their practical fitness for such a post, believing that such a course would tend to prevent the loss of both life and property ; and that this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to at once promote a Bill to give practical effect to this resolution.”

### CERTIFICATION OF SEAGOING TRADESMEN.

Moved by Mr. WILKIE, seconded by Mr. MILLINGTON, and carried :—

“That, in order to secure greater safety of life at sea, we instruct the Parliamentary Committee to see that, in any future shipping legislation, due provisions are made for ensuring that every person (such as ships’ carpenters) having duties to perform on board a vessel at sea shall pass a practical examination as shall be required by and hold a certificate of efficiency from the Board of Trade that they are competent to discharge the same.”

It was moved, seconded, and carried :—

“That we request the Parliamentary Committee to introduce a Bill to provide for the compulsory half-yearly examination and registration of steam boilers ; or should any other measure be introduced relating to the examination of boilers, every effort be made to ensure that all such examinations shall be made by inspectors appointed by the Board of Trade, and that the boiler attendant may have power to call for a special examination whenever he may deem it necessary.”



Mr. WHITBURN (Newcastle) moved :—

“That the Parliamentary Committee be called upon to introduce a Bill providing for the half-yearly examination and registration of steam boilers, that the examination should be made by the Board of Trade, and that those in charge of boilers should have served an apprenticeship of five years and be certified as qualified.”

Mr. F. A. Fox (Cardiff) seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

### 29.—MINERS' EIGHT HOURS DAY.

Mr. ASPINWALL (Wigan) moved :—

“That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to assist the miners in getting an amended Mines Regulation Bill in the direction of the eight hours day, &c.”

Mr. J. WEIR (Dunfermline) seconded the motion, and it was agreed to.

### 30.—THE NEXT MEETING PLACE.

The President announced that the names of Bristol, Edinburgh, and Birmingham had been submitted. The vote resulted as follows:—Edinburgh, 438,000; Birmingham, 416,000; Bristol, 56,000. As Edinburgh had not a clear majority of all the votes cast, a second vote was taken as between Edinburgh and Birmingham, with the result that it was decided to go to the former city, the figures being—Edinburgh, 464,000; Birmingham, 418,000.

### 31.—DANGEROUS TRADES.

Mr. W. OWEN (Burslem) moved :—

“That this Congress urges upon the Home Secretary to provide for increased and adequate inspection in dangerous trades, for which special rules had been framed for the protection of workers.”

This was agreed to.

### 32.—ESCAPE-HOLES IN SHIP DECKS.

Mr. S. FISHER (Coal-trimmers, Cardiff) moved :—

“That for the safety of life and limb of those who were employed in the trimming of coals in the bunker and cargo holds of steamers and vessels, it was necessary there should be escape-holes in the 'tween-decks of vessels and steamers having more than one deck, so as to allow of escape quickly in case of fainting or other sudden illness, gas or oil explosions, or collision; and that the Parliamentary Committee be requested to press the matter on the Board of Trade, so that such holes might be made in all existing and new ships.”

Mr. WILLIAMS seconded, and the resolution was agreed to.

### 33.—COMPULSORY ALLOTMENTS.

Mr. GILLET (Winsford) moved:—

“That the time had arrived when a Bill should be framed to amend the Allotment Act, by the insertion of a clause giving additional power to the Urban District Councils to force the sale of land when applied for by any person or party, to open up any industry for the welfare of the working classes; and the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to attend to this matter.”

Mr. STUBBS (Winsford) seconded, and it was agreed to.

### 34.—MUNICIPALISATION OF DOCKS.

Mr. BEN TILLET moved:—

“That this Congress is of opinion that all docks and wharves should be at once municipalised. In view of the Government-aided construction of docks in continental ports and the provision of important shipping facilities, we urge the necessity of immediately taking over all present dock property by the municipal government authorities receiving financial and administrative aid from the State, and also to provide adequate accommodation for the increasing trade of the United Kingdom.”

Mr. FAIRBAIRN (London) seconded the motion, and it was unanimously agreed to.

### 35.—SUNDAY WORK AND SWEATING.

Mr. BEN TURNER moved:—

“That the Parliamentary Committee draw up a Bill, and secure its being introduced into Parliament, prohibiting manufacturing processes being carried on from Saturday noon until Monday morning.”

Mr. SHAFTOE (Bradford) seconded, and it was agreed to.

Mr. HOLLINGS (Bradford) moved:—

“That while thanking Mr. Asquith for his efforts, this Congress regrets that the amended Factory Bill does not contain a clause making it obligatory on all employers in the clothing trade to provide adequate workshop accommodation for all whom they employ, as in our opinion home working is the chief cause of the sweating system. Further, so long as employers are allowed to send their work to people's homes, complete and efficient factory inspection is impossible without an enormous and absurd increase in the number of inspectors. It is also our opinion that where bedrooms or living rooms are used as workshops, they become a source of danger to the public health and tend to demoralise those engaged therein. We therefore instruct the Parliamentary Committee to introduce a short Bill embodying the principle of compulsory workshop accommodation.”

Mr. TERENCE A. FLYNN (Manchester) seconded, and it was agreed to.

### 36.—MIGRATORY WORKMEN.

Mr. JOHN HOLLINGS (Bradford) moved:—

“That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to introduce into Parliament a Bill which should make it an offence against the law for employers to bring migratory or other workmen into a district well supplied, because such action created an artificial supply of ‘blackleg’ labour, which was demoralising and destructive of fair dealing and good workmanship.”

Mr. T. A. FLYNN seconded, and it was agreed to.

### 37.—CO-OPERATION AND SWEATING.

Mr. T. A. FLYNN (Manchester) moved:—

“That the Parliamentary Committee take such steps as may be reasonable and possible to purge the co-operative movement of those who would degrade its system of production to the level of that used by the capitalistic sweater.”

The resolution was ultimately agreed to.

### 38.—EDUCATION AND PUBLIC GRANTS.

Mr. W. THORNE moved:—

“That where grants of public money are given for educational purposes there should also be public control; and that our present system of State education, based as it is upon commercialism, and being out of harmony with the economic forces which are working towards collectivism, does not supply the educational needs of the nation; and therefore it is imperative that our educational system should be completely remodelled on such a basis as to secure the democratic principle of equality of opportunity, and, by the introduction into our State schools of the best results of educational science, to make it possible for English children to obtain such a training—physical, intellectual, and moral—as may tend to make them worthy citizens of a co-operative commonwealth.”

This was agreed to.

### 39.—BAKEHOUSES AND THE EIGHT HOURS DAY.

Mr. EMERY (Operative Bakers, Hanley) moved:—

“That this Congress urges upon the Parliamentary Committee to introduce a Bill into the House of Commons fixing the hours of work in bakehouses at eight per day, or forty-eight hours per week.”

Mr. GIBBS (West Bromwich) seconded the resolution, which was at once adopted.

Mr. BRANNIGAN (Dundee) moved:—

“That a similar instruction should be given the Parliamentary Committee with regard to a Bill limiting the hours of work in bakehouses to eight per day in Scotland.”

Mr. LEE (Hammersmith) seconded, and it was adopted.

#### 40.—THE MINERS' EIGHT HOURS BILL.

Mr. ENOCH EDWARDS (Lancashire Miners' Federation) moved :—

“That it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee to assist and support the miners in their endeavours to get the Miners' Eight Hours Bill passed into law.”

Mr. W. E. HARVEY (Derbyshire Miners) seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. CHORLTON (Enginemens' Federation, Durham) moved :—

“That the Parliamentary Committee oppose any attempt to make the application of the Bill optional.”

Mr. T. GLOVER (Lancashire Miners) seconded the resolution, and it was adopted.

#### 41.—CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

Mr. CLERY (Fawcett Association, London) moved :—

“That this Congress regards the system of capital punishment as barbarous and degrading, and in the name of the working classes of this country registers its opinion that the time has come when such a revolting practice should no longer disgrace the Legislature.”

Mr. W. C. STEADMAN (London) seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

#### 42.—POSTAL EMPLOYEES AND COMBINATION.

Mr. CLERY moved :—

“That this Congress hereby approves the appointment of a Select Committee to prosecute an immediate and effective agitation for securing to postal servants and all other State employés the unrestricted exercise of the privileges of combination and of their civil rights, and hereby expresses its condemnation of the Government for allowing this abuse to continue so long.”

Mr. A. HARRIS (Woolwich) seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

#### 43.—EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

Mr. T. R. CLYNES (Gasworkers' and General Labourers' Union, Oldham) moved :—

“Considering that the employment of children in factories and workshops and their consequent exploitation by the capitalist is injurious to the children, unjust to their parents, and a crime against the human race; considering the infamous fact that the children of the working class have not the same opportunities for the class-room and the play-ground as the children of the capitalist class; considering that in this connection Great Britain is behind other countries; considering that unhappy parents under an unhappy system are actually willing, and even anxious, to have their children torn from school and hurled into the factory—this Congress is of opinion that the time has come for Great Britain to cease building its empire



upon children's hearts, to give up coining its wealth out of children's wasted lives; and demands, as a temporary minimum from the Government, the abolition of child labour until the age of fifteen, and of all night labour until the age of eighteen."

Mr. BLAND (Bradford) seconded the resolution.

Mr. T. GLOVER (Lancashire) said that if the age limit was altered from fifteen to fourteen years there would be no opposition.

Mr. CLYNES accepted the alteration, and with this amendment the resolution was adopted.

#### 44.—CONTROL OF TRAFFIC.

Mr. G. T. JACKSON (Hackney Carriage and Tramway Men, Manchester) moved:—

"That it is desirable in the interest of the public, as well as on account of the youths, that a scale should be fixed setting out to what extent youths driving heavy traffic should have under their charge."

Mr. GREGSON (Mersey Trades Federation) seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

Mr. CHADWICK (Mersey Federation) moved:—

"That it is desirable, for the safety of the public, and also from a humane point of view, that a regulated load for teams (namely, two horses) should not exceed six tons (exclusive of the wagon); and that a one-horse load should not exceed three-and-a-half tons (exclusive of the wagon)."

Mr. J. SEXTON (Dock Labourers, Liverpool) seconded the resolution, which was carried.

#### 45.—CORONERS' INQUESTS AND WORKMEN.

Mr. HUDSON (Amalgamated Railway Servants, Darlington) moved:—

"That the Parliamentary Committee be instructed to take immediate steps to secure such alteration in the law as shall enable the relatives of all workpeople who meet their death while following their employment to be represented at coroners' inquests by trade union officials, or other non-legal persons whom they may select, as it is now done under the Mines Act, by which means fuller investigations will be possible and many flagrant abuses brought to light which are now obscured by the lack of technical knowledge on the part of those involved in the inquiries."

Mr. J. SEXTON seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

#### 46.—TRUCK ACT AMENDMENT.

Mr. JOHNSON (Sheffield Table Blade Grinders' Union) moved:—

"That in the opinion of this Congress the Truck Act Amendment Bill introduced by the late Home Secretary is non-effective as a protection to the workers against the deductions from wages, in so far as the signing of a contract may frequently be made the condition of the worker's obtaining employment. We therefore

instruct the Parliamentary Committee to urge on the Government the need for introducing an amended measure on the lines indicated in resolutions passed at previous Congresses, providing that no contracting-out on the part of the worker, by written agreement or otherwise, shall in any degree affect the illegality of such deductions as are in question from the wages; and should the Government refuse to introduce such a Bill, the Parliamentary Committee be further instructed to prepare a Bill and use every effort to secure its becoming law; and, further, that provision be made to ensure that all wages earned be paid not later than the first regular pay day."

Mr. BROWN (Glasgow) seconded the resolution, which was at once put to the meeting and adopted.

#### 47.—GOVERNMENT AND FAIR WAGES.

Mr. A. HARRIS (Woolwich) moved:—

"That the Government be called upon to put into operation the fair wages resolution passed by the House of Commons, and pay trade union rates to all persons employed in Government workshops, with a minimum wage of 24s. per week for labourers; also that all classification be abolished."

Mr. CUMMINGS (Woolwich) seconded the resolution, which was carried.

Mr. ROGERS (Vellum Binders, London) moved:—

"Recognising the fact that while the 'fair house' principle is adopted in theory by the Government, and by the majority of our public bodies, it is at the same time liable to systematic violation in practice because of the absence of any clear definition of the term 'fair house,' this Congress is asked to affirm the following proposition:—'That only those houses should be considered *fair* or should be entrusted with Government or municipal work where fair conditions of labour exist, and where a trade union rate of wage is paid to all trades employed therein, and that this principle be specially regarded and observed by trade unions when it is involved in their relationship with each other.'"

The following amendment, sent in by the Lancashire District Gas Workers, was added to the resolution—

"That only those houses be considered fair where trade union conditions exist, where trade union customs as to hours, holidays, number of hands, and apprentices are observed, and where trade union rates of wages are paid to all employed."

Mr. T. R. CLYNES (Oldham) seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

#### 48.—EQUALITY FOR WOMEN.

Miss WHYTE (Women's Bookbinding Society, London) moved:—

"That this Congress is of opinion that in all legislative enactments relating to labour, so far as it affects hours of work and remuneration, there should be no distinction made as to the sex of the person so employed, and that perfect equality of treatment should be adopted."

Mrs. M. SARGEANT (Bristol) seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

#### 49.—LEGAL RECOVERY OF WAGES.

Mr. J. CROSS (Blackburn) moved :—

“That in cases of stoppage of a mill, works, or company, where there is no provision made for wages earned, the workpeople shall have the right to distrain at once for all wages in the same way as a landlord may for rent in arrear.”

Mr. T. ASPINWALL (Wigan) seconded the resolution, which was adopted.

#### 50.—YOUTHS AND TRADE UNIONS.

Mr. WILKINSON (Cotton Weavers, Accrington) moved :—

“That it be an instruction to the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress to make an attempt to get the Trades Acts of 1871 and 1876 so amended that a person of the age of twelve years may become a member of a registered trade union.”

Mr. J. CROSS seconded the motion.

Mr. BAILEY (Notts Miners), for the Miners' National Federation, moved an amendment that the age of “twelve years” be deleted from the resolution, and “fourteen years” inserted in its place.

Mr. T. GLOVER (Lancashire Miners) seconded the amendment, which was carried.

#### 51.—RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYERS.

Mr. REID (Cabinet Makers, Glasgow) moved :—

“That this Trades Congress is of opinion that employers should be responsible to workmen for loss and damage to tools by fire while on their premises; and further, that the Parliamentary Committee be instructed definitely to take such action as may be necessary to bring legislation into effect which will result in the risk of such loss being placed on employers.”

Mr. W. PARNELL (Cabinet Makers, London) seconded the resolution, which was carried.

#### 52.—BAKERS AND THE UNHEALTHY TRADES SCHEDULE.

Mr. J. JENKINS (Bakers' Society, London) moved :—

“That, as the universal testimony of medical authorities is to the effect that bakers as a class are short-lived, and suffer from long hours and unhealthy surroundings to a greater degree than the average mechanic or artisan, this Congress hereby instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take immediate steps to get the baking trade scheduled as an unhealthy trade under the powers conferred upon the Home Secretary by the new Factory Act of 1895.”

Mr. LEE (Bakers' Society, Hammersmith) seconded the resolution, which was at once adopted.

**53.—THE NEW YORK CONVENTION.**

Mr. JAMES SEXTON (Dock Labourers, Liverpool) moved:—

“That this Congress send three delegates to the American Labour Convention, to be held in New York in December next.”

Mr. W. PARNELL (Cabinet Makers, London) seconded the resolution.

Mr. GREGORY (Stonemasons, London) moved an amendment that two delegates be sent as before, their selection being in the hands of the Parliamentary Committee.

Mr. W. C. STEADMAN (London) seconded the amendment, which on being put to the Congress was carried by a large majority.

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